

## A CITY CONSUMED.

Destruction of St. John, N. B., by Fire.

## THE DEVOURING FLAMES.

All the Business Portion of the City Destroyed.

## THE HOMES OF THOUSANDS OBLITERATED.

Wooden Buildings Contributing to the Spread of Devastation.

## THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PARALYZED

Terrible Loss of Life—Many Persons Missing.

## SEEKING SAFETY ON THE WHARVES.

Estimated Loss Over Eight Millions of Dollars.

## ABOUT SIXTY PER CENT INSURED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

St. John, N. B., June 21, 1877.

The almost unparalleled calamity that has visited St. John, N. B., fills the mind of the country with horror and recalls the fearful disasters of a similar character which left large portions of the fair cities of Chicago and Boston blackened expanses of smouldering ruins. In a few hours the fruits of the active industry of generations have been destroyed, and scarcely anything remains of St. John but the crumbling debris of its buildings, to which the stately edifices and the humblest hovels contribute their share. Banks, churches, hotels, theatres, stores and residences are involved in one common destruction. Even some of the shipping at the wharves has shared the fate of the city, while many vessels only escaped by the activity of their crews in cutting loose from their moorings.

Many persons are reported to have lost their lives while fleeing from the flames or in the vain attempt to save part of their household goods. Many firemen were injured in their brave efforts to save life and property. The number of dead will probably much exceed the number whose names can now be ascertained. Many persons are reported missing. The following is a list of all those known to have been killed, as reported to the city authorities:—

BENJAMIN WILLIAMS, on Germania street.

HAROLD GILBERT, near the Victoria Hall.

WILLIAM McNEILL, of J. Adams & Co.'s establishment.

GARRETT COTTER, of James N. May's establishment.

HUGH MCGOVERN.

The mother of ex-Mayor Reed and his two sons.

Two young men, names unknown, who were run over and killed.

An unknown man found dead on Prince William street at four o'clock this morning.

The terrible conflagration which visited this city yesterday has destroyed the entire portion of the city south of King street. The fire broke out about half past two o'clock in McLaughlin's boiler works, York Point street. Near this spot there was a large number of one story frame buildings and sheds. They were very old and dry as tinder. This accounts for the sudden spread of the flames. A strong northwesterly breeze was blowing at the time, forcing the flames directly along Dock street and carrying the blazing embers far into the heart of the city. The fire ran along both sides of Dock street, destroying in its course a fine row of brick buildings, occupied principally as stores by wholesale grocers, liquor dealers, clothiers, &c. Hathaway's Theatre, on Dock street, was the first public building to fall.

## SPREAD OF THE FLAMES.

The fire swept on with irresistible fury toward Market square. Here great hopes were entertained of arresting the flames. The distance across the square from the corner of Dock street is nearly two hundred feet, and it was thought impossible that the flames could leap this distance. All the engine houses in the city, eight in number, were collected here to fight the fire. The firemen worked like heroes, and their efforts were rewarded by the saving of the Bank of British North America, which lay a little out of the direct course of the wind. But the fire gained King street, and then dividing into two forked branches swept eastward along the south side of King street and southward along Prince William street, threatening to engulf all between. By this time Mill street, Smith street, Drury lane and Dock street were in ashes, and the firemen were almost despairing. People in the southeastern portion of the city began to fear that their homes would be reached, and began to remove some of their most valued household articles.

## A SUBLIME SPECTACLE.

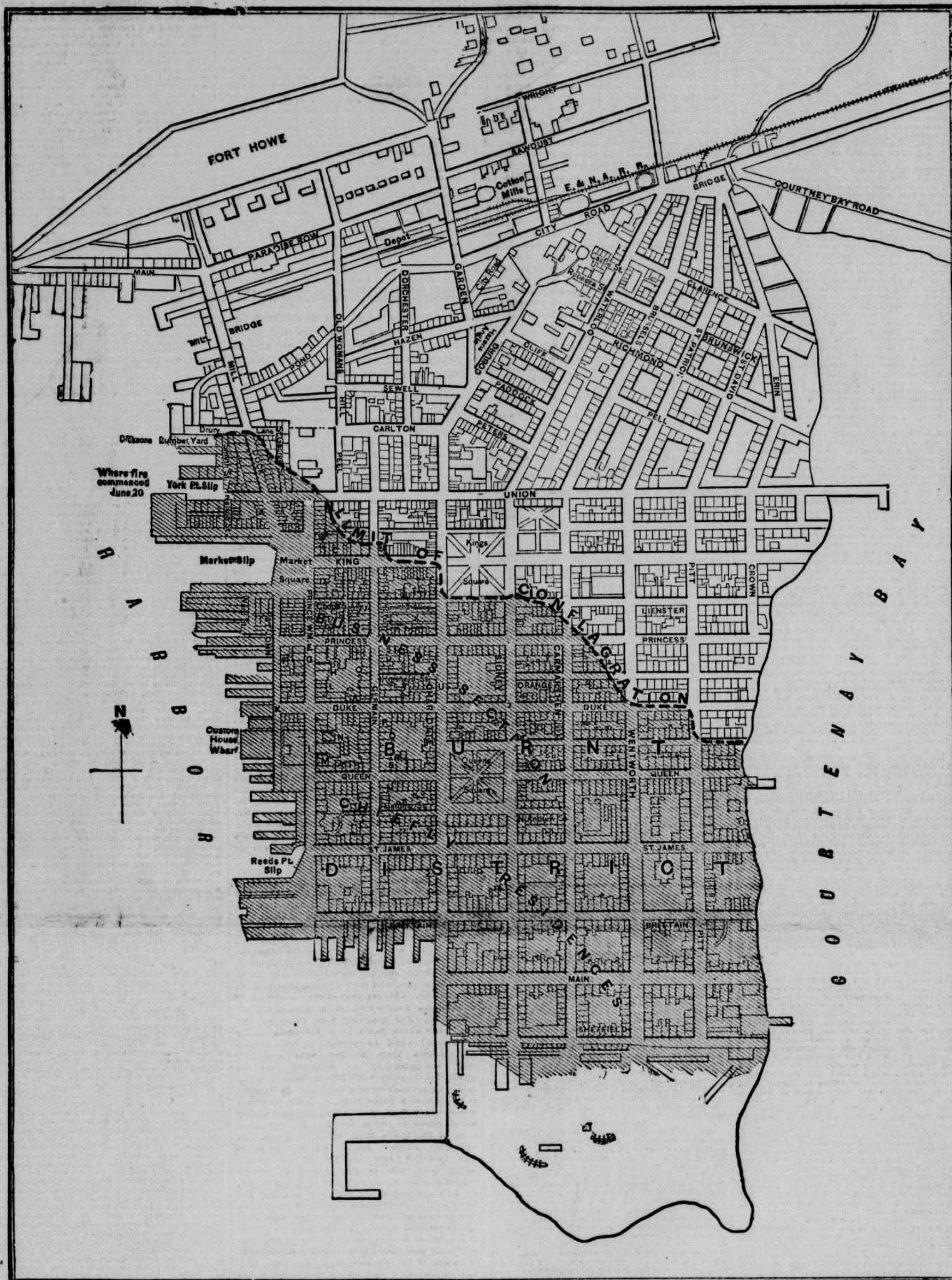
On the bluff at the northern extremity of the town thousands of people had gathered to witness the grand and awful scene. From the residence of the late Chief Justice Chipman, situated nearly at the centre of the bluff and overlooking the whole town, the sight was one never to be forgotten. The night was rendered as brilliant as the day. The red flames shot up high into the air, illuminating all the public buildings and the shipping in the harbor. The V shaped line of light was gradually extending on both branches and narrowing at the apex as it passed over the doomed city.

## PROGRESS OF THE FIRE.

The fire started and warehouses on North and South

## THE FIRE DESOLATED CITY.

Map of St. John, N. B., Showing the Area of the Burned District After the Great Fire of June 20.



## REFERENCES.

- A—Hathaway's Theatre.  
B—Police office.  
C—Western Union Telegraph office.  
D—Gillies' block.  
E—Post Office.

- F—Bank of New Brunswick.  
G—Office of Evening Globe.  
H—Paddock buildings.  
I—Custom House.  
K—Fish market.  
L—Bond's Hotel.

- M—International Hotel.  
N—Royal Hotel.  
O—Academy of Music.  
P—Methodist Meeting house.  
Q—Grammar school.

- R—Presbyterian Church.  
S—Victoria Hotel.  
T—Trinity Church.  
U—Sunday school.  
V—City Hall.

Market wharves were quickly laid low by the devouring flames. The buildings on the North Market wharf were almost all substantial brick buildings. On the South Market wharf there were several wooden buildings. All the large dry goods houses, banks, commission houses and hotels on the south side of King street were soon destroyed.

## THE PROPERTY DESTROYED.

By midnight the entire business portion of the city was in flames and the fire had spread over a considerable quarter of the town occupied exclusively by dwelling houses. The wires of the Western Union Telegraph office had been destroyed and the office was consequently removed to the lower part of the city. Gillies' Imperial Building, a fine row of houses, used principally for stores and offices, were completely levelled. The Victoria Hotel, built about five years ago, the largest hotel in the Province, was consumed. Prince William street, which was entirely occupied by business firms and formed the business centre of the city, was burned from end to end.

## THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Among the public buildings destroyed are the following:—

The New Post Office, situated on Princess street, a new stone building, valued at \$200,000.

The Custom House, a large granite building, 300 feet long, situated on Prince William street and extending through to the line of Water street, two stories high on the former street and four on the latter. Here were situated the principal offices of the Dominion government.

The City Hall, a building on the corner of Princess and Prince William streets, formerly known as the Commercial Bank Building, owned by the city, and now used by the Mayor and other public officers.

## OLD TRINITY CHURCH.

Great efforts were made, but without avail, to save the old Trinity Church, on Germain street, between Princess and King streets. It was a wooden structure, standing a little back from the street and surrounded by a pretty enclosure. It was built fifty-three years ago, but was remodelled in 1873, the steeple having

been destroyed by sparks from a large conflagration on King street.

## A USELESS PRECAUTION.

Between Prince William and Germain streets the blocks were intersected by many narrow lanes and courts. Several of these were opened for the express purpose of allowing fire engines an easy access to the centre of the blocks, so as to be more able to stay the progress of a fire. So many large conflagrations have visited St. John that the city authorities thought this precaution necessary, but in the present instance it proved utterly unavailing. There were many old wooden buildings on these streets, which materially contributed to the rapid spread of the flames. The eastern and southeastern parts of the city were the locations of the finer dwelling houses.

The following is a list, as complete as can be at present obtained, of the principal merchants and private persons who have lost their property in the conflagration, besides a list of the principal public buildings that were destroyed:—

## THE BUSINESS HOUSES.

Thomas' hardware store.  
W. H. Thorne & Co., hardware.  
Lewin's hardware store.  
Sears' drug store.  
T. W. Daniell & Co., dry goods.  
W. O. Smith, drug store.  
Robert Marshall, insurance office.  
Jourdaine's dry goods establishment.  
John Armstrong & Co., dry goods.  
Barnes & Co., book printing.  
J. & A. McMillan, printers and booksellers.  
Chubb & Co., booksellers.  
M. Francis, boots and shoes.  
Eastern Express Company's office.  
Thomas Furlong, liquor dealer.  
James Downville, merchant.  
Stewart & White, auctioneers.  
George S. De Forest, merchant.  
George Stewart, drug store.  
Logan & Lindsay, grocers.

Thomas H. Hall, shipping merchant.  
William Thompson & Co., ship brokers.  
Guy Stewart & Co., ship brokers.  
Scammell Brothers, ship brokers.  
E. D. Jewett & Co., ship owners.  
Daniel & Bond, wholesale dry goods.  
Richard Thompson, jeweller.  
James Adams & Co.  
Moses C. Barbour.  
Barbour Brothers.  
Farrell & Smith.  
McKenzie Brothers.  
McGee Brothers, dry goods.  
Balard & Bennett, dry goods.  
James A. Hezan, dry goods.  
Steeves Brothers, dry goods.  
Everett's hat store.  
Manchester, Robinson & Ellison, dry goods dealers.  
Morris & Co., fancy goods.  
Knodell's job printing office.

## THE BANKS AND BANKING HOUSES.

Bank of New Brunswick.  
Maritime Bank.  
Phelps' Banking House.  
Simson Jones, banker.  
McClellan & Co., bankers.  
Offices of the Montreal and Nova Scotia banks, in the Maritime Building.  
Royal Hotel.  
Bond's Hotel.  
International Hotel.  
American Hotel.  
Victoria Hotel.  
St. John's Hotel.  
Ardia Hotel.  
Brunswick House.  
Bay View House.

## THE THEATRES.

The Opera House, on the west side of Germain street, near Princess.  
Hathaway's Variety Theatre, on Dock street.  
The Academy of Music, on Germain street.  
Old Fellows Hall.

Orange Hall.  
King Street Temperance Hall.  
East Dramatic Lyceum.  
Temple of Honor.

## THE CHURCHES.

Trinity Church.  
Old Methodist Meeting House and Grammar School.  
Baptist Church, Queen and Germain streets.  
Presbyterian Church, on Germain street.  
St. Andrew's Church, Germain street.  
Christian Church, Duke street.  
St. James' Church, Lewistown street.  
Cathedral Church.  
St. Philip's Church, Carmarthen street.  
Mission Methodist, Pitt street.  
St. David's Church.  
Reformed Presbyterian Church.  
Sheffield Street Mission House.

## THE AYLWY.

Deaf and Dumb Institution.

## THE PRIVATE ESTATES AND DWELLINGS.

On Dock street were Small's steamboat agency, Ferguson's estate, Hammond's estate, Park's estate and Robertson's, Stanton's and Johnson's estates.  
McClellan & Co., bankers.  
Offices of the Montreal and Nova Scotia banks, in the Maritime Building.

## THE HOTELS.

Mr. Francis Ferguson's house.  
Thomas McAvity, late Mayor, residence.

## THE NEWSPAPERS.

The offices of the Freeman, Watchman and Daily News, all on the east side of Prince William street, between King and Princess streets, were destroyed.  
The Evening Globe office, near the Post Office, and the Daily and Weekly Telegraph offices were also consumed.

The office of the Religious Intelligencer shared a similar fate. Job offices were attached to all these papers, and the entire stock—type, rollers, presses—everything, in fact, was swept away.

## THE DANGERS OF THE NIGHT.

An appalling scene was presented to the eyes of our

citizens when the day broke. The suddenness of the catastrophe was enough to drive to despair the stoutest heart. Millions of property had been destroyed and all the industries of St. John were laid prostrate. The firemen of the town had done their best. They had been aided by firemen and engines from Portland and Charlottetown. They had worked hard all night without rest, experiencing hairbreadth escapes from death at every moment. Sometimes they were so closely hemmed in by the flames that their clothes were singed; at others they were obliged to run for their lives and drag after them the burning hose. The positions of the engines had to be changed many times, and much valuable time was lost. As soon as the engines could be moved to new positions the fire would catch up with them, and the terrific heat would again cause the firemen to retreat. These changes were very frequent in the beginning of the conflagration, as the fire broke through Dock street and poured into the heart of the city. Explosions were heard from some of the buildings, which created a considerable panic at the time.

## EXTENT OF THE FIRE.

The fire from the head of Dock street had burned along King street as far as King's square. All on the south side of this square had been swept away. From the square the fire had run back along Sidney street, following the line of King street again until near Pitt street. All buildings south of this line were burned.

## THE THIEVES.

Thieves were as thick as bees during all the time of the fire, and a great amount of property must have been stolen. The small police force availed nothing against them in such an emergency.

## WHERE THE PEOPLE WENT.

The Ballist Wharf, a very large wharf in the southern part of the city, was crowded with homeless people all night long. Around the railway track, and between the bay and the wharf, in a large open space of ground, several thousand more were congregated. To-day there are fully eighteen thousand people without a home to go to, and with starvation staring them in the face. All the provision stores have been destroyed and danger of famine is imminent.

The Western Union Telegraph office is now located in the Intercolonial Railroad Depot. The other office was burned down, and not a thing was saved.

The mails are now sent through the Carleton Post Office. They are leaving regularly on time.

## THE SHIPPING IN THE WHARVES.

The fire was not alone confined to the land, but a few of the schooners and smaller vessels at the Market street wharves were destroyed. As soon as the wharves began to burn the vessels that could be got away were hauled off to a place of safety in the harbor. The small number of engines rendered the firemen totally unable to cope with the fire after it had spread beyond Germain street.

## THE LOSS OF PROPERTY.

A very accurate estimate of the total loss and insurance puts the amount of property destroyed at between \$7,500,000 and \$8,000,000. The insurance will cover about fifty-five per cent of this amount, leaving a net loss of little less than half the total value of the property. The insurance for the most part placed in English companies. A few are said to be in the Atlas and Hartford, of Hartford, Conn. Very few if any are in New York companies.

## AN APPEAL FOR AID.

The following dispatch was yesterday received at the Mayor's Office:—

St. John, N. B., June 21, 1877.

To the Mayor of New York:—St. John is almost totally destroyed. All public buildings burned. Few business houses left. Fully one-half of residences in ashes. Send all aid you can. Fifteen thousand people homeless.

D. R. WARNER, United States Consul.

Mayor Ely was not at the City Hall yesterday, so that no action was taken in the matter. Mr. Archibald, the British Consul, called during the day to consult with the Mayor as to raising funds to aid the sufferers.

Mayor Schroeder, of Brooklyn, yesterday received a telegram from D. R. Warner, United States Consul at St. John, N. B., setting forth that the town is almost totally destroyed, and that 15,000 people are homeless. The Mayor will forward any subscriptions the public may intrust to him.

## AID FOR THE SUFFERERS.

RELIEF POURING IN FROM ALL SIDES—CAR LOADS OF PROVISIONS STARTED TOWARD THE BURNED CITY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

BANGOR, Me., June 21, 1877.

The citizens of Bangor are actively engaged in making preparations to relieve the sufferers in St. John. One ton of meat is now being cooked. The bakeshops, all the hotels and the saloons are furnishing large quantities of bread, and the stores are supplying groceries. A special train will leave here for St. John at half-past eight this evening with a load of provisions.

HALIFAX HELPING—MONEY, CLOTHING, PROVISIONS AND TROOPS CONTINUED.

HALIFAX, N. S., June 21, 1877.

A public meeting was held this afternoon by a large number of leading citizens. Lieutenant Governor Archibald presided and spoke of the great calamity which had befallen their sister city. He called upon our people to do their utmost to relieve the St. John sufferers.

Mayor Ritchie also addressed the meeting and read a telegram from the Mayor of St. John stating that the hands of people were homeless and starving. Chief Justice Sir William Young, Rova G. M. Grant, W. J. Starrs, Dr. Farrell, John Doull and others also spoke. A large committee was appointed and a subscription list was opened. In less than half an hour upward of \$10,000 were raised.

A committee, consisting of the Mayor and three others, was appointed to proceed to St. John and manage the distribution of the relief. Resolutions were passed recommending the City Council to grant \$10,000 to the city to be advanced for next year. Further subscriptions will be taken. The committee left by a special train for St. John this afternoon. Several car loads of provisions were forwarded to-day, the Intercolonial Railroad authorities doing everything possible to aid in the good work. Yarmouth subscribed \$1,000, and a steamer Des Moines sailed from there for St. John with provisions. It is probable troops will be sent from here, as they have been asked for from St. John.

MONTREAL MEETING IN MONTREAL—FOOD AND CLOTHING FOR THE SUFFERERS.

MONTREAL, June 21, 1877.

A meeting of citizens, called by the Mayor, was held this afternoon, for the purpose of devising means to relieve sufferers by the St. John fire. Among those present were B. Devlin, C. J. Bridges, Hon. Peter Mitchell, Mr. Angus, of the Bank of Montreal; Thomas White, Jr., Mr. Grindley, of the Bank of British North America, and others.

PROVISIONS TO BE FORWARDED.

It was announced that the Grand Trunk line would forward goods and provisions for the sufferers from Mr. Bridges said means of relief would be sent expeditiously over the Colonial road.

A committee was appointed to purchase enough provisions to fill the special train which will be despatched this evening and reach the sufferers to-morrow. It was also decided to open a room immediately for the reception of clothing and other articles for the sufferers. Leading gentlemen spoke in favor of energetic action in behalf of the citizens of St. John. Several said the fire was a warning to Montreal to look well to its means of fire protection and the efficiency of the fire brigade, as, if a fire were once started, it had evidence by late events that it would be hard to prevent it from sweeping the city.

The Mayor has issued a call for a public meeting on Saturday, at noon, to discuss the situation and devise further means to aid the sufferers.

The following is the closest estimate that can be made with regard to the losses of insurance companies. The majority of the English companies have distinct agencies which include that district, as also have several of the Ontario companies—for instance, the Canada Fire and Marine. Consequently the losses will be counted at the head agency of the district in which St. John is included. The estimate is therefore imperfect.

The National Company has about \$140,000 in the burned district. The Citizens' loss is about \$100,000 and the Stadacona's \$150,000. The Royal Canadian Insurance Company's losses are \$270,000. The Quebec Fire and Canada Agricultural will probably lose nothing. The North British and Mercantile has several heavy risks. The Canada Fire and Marine, which was supposed to be heavily interested. The only risk of the Royal of England, taken through this agency was on the Bank of British North America, which was saved; but the risk taken at the New Brunswick agency are no doubt very extensive. The British American Assurance Company has risks aggregating \$27,000 in the district. The Bank of British America and Bank of Montreal to-day each sent 500 barrels of flour and 100 barrels of pork to the sufferers.

## LATER.

At seven o'clock 1,000 barrels flour, 100 barrels of beef, a car load of bread and a car load of biscuit were despatched to St. John.